

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/802,963

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

Applicant(s)

NOLAN, PAUL ANTHONY JOHN

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/25/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-4, 6 and 7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 2-3 of the amendment dated 7/25/2006 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 2-3: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, "brightening the color value assigned to alpha channel pixels" in a method of creating effects in a processed graphic image, comprising providing an image channel with a graphic image having source pixels, providing an alpha channel having alpha channel pixels which are spatially equivalent to the source pixels, assigning a color value to the alpha channel pixels, brightening the color value assigned to alpha channel pixels, and causing edges of an image formed by the alpha channel pixels to have less transparency, set forth in the independent claim 3.

Claims 4 and 6 of the amendment dated 7/25/2006 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 4 and 6: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, "embossing the pixels in the alpha channel and using a result of the embossing for changing brightness of the selected colors being applied" in method of creating effects in a graphic image, comprising providing a source image channel having source pixels, providing a color level with selected colors, providing an alpha channel with alpha channel pixels which are spatially equivalent to the source pixels, mapping multiple pixels in the alpha channel, embossing the pixels in the alpha channel and using a result of the embossing for changing brightness of the selected colors being applied, and providing highlights to the selected colors, thereby providing a sense of depth due to the embossing, giving the highlights to the applied colors, set forth in the independent claim 4.

Claim 7 of the amendment dated 7/25/2006 is allowed. The following is an examiner's

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statement of reasons for allowance of claim 7: Nothing in the prior art anticipates or suggests, “brightening the color values assigned to the alpha channel pixels” in a method for creating an emblazoning effect in a graphical image, comprising storing in a primary buffer of a processor primary pixel values representing a region, storing in a secondary buffer secondary pixel values representing the region, storing tertiary values for pixels representing the same region in a user-modifiable alpha channel, providing a function representing application of color and brightness values to pixel values, executing said function on the secondary pixel values to the extent represented by the tertiary pixel values held in an alpha channel, and storing resultant pixel values as the primary pixel values, in the primary buffer, copying the primary pixel values stored in the primary buffer to the secondary pixel values stored in the secondary buffer, providing an image channel with a graphic image having source pixels, providing in the alpha channel alpha channel pixels which are spatially equivalent to the source pixels, assigning color values to the alpha channel pixels, brightening the color values assigned to the alpha channel pixels, and causing edges of an image formed by the alpha channel pixels to have less transparency, set forth in the independent claim 7.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

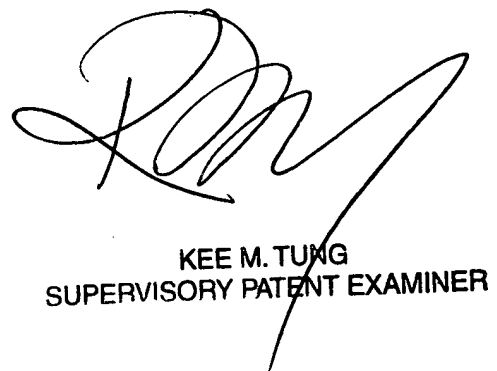
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jcw



KEE M. TUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER